

All-age schools in Wales: a report on the challenges and successes of establishing all-age schools



Consortiwm Canolbarth y De
Central South Consortium

Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd
Joint Education Service





Background & Objectives

This thematic survey is expected to support the Welsh Government by achieving the following objectives:

- To focus on the challenges and successes of the all-age model
- To provide a state of the nation report on all-age schools

The all-age schools sector is a growing sector, with more than double the number of schools open in 2020 compared with 2017. This report is focused on three broad areas:

- The rationale for establishing an all-age school
- Setting up all-age schools
- The impact of an all-age school model

Contained within Estyn's [report](#) was 1 recommendation (R4) for Consortia in relation to: Provide better focused, sector-specific training and support, for example to improve classroom practice across all phases of the school.

Progress against recommendations

- In line with Welsh Government guidance, in CSC we define a school's curriculum as 'everything a learner experiences in pursuit of the four purposes. It is not simply what we teach, but how we teach and, crucially, why we teach it.' Therefore, curriculum professional learning and support includes the what, i.e. curriculum design, and the how, i.e. pedagogy, underpinned by the why, i.e. our national mission and the four purposes across all phases.
- Support in developing classroom practice is embedded in all of CSC professional learning (PL).
- To ensure capacity and depth of expertise to support all schools in the region in pedagogy, an Associate Advisers for Curriculum was seconded to the CSC C&PL team in September 2022.
- Nearly all schools have engaged with the overall PL with 10,024 practitioners participating between April 2022 and February 2023. Nearly all schools have engaged in regional Curriculum, Teaching & Learning PL opportunities to date with 6,005 practitioners participating during the same period.
- CSC 'Leaders of Learning' network meetings were launched in October 2022 with 30 practitioners engaging. The focus of this network is supporting school leaders with strategic oversight and development related to high-quality teaching.
- Foundation Learning termly networks are ongoing with 56 practitioners attending the summer term 2022 network, 49 in the autumn term 2023 and 26 in the spring term. The focus of this network is supporting primary school practitioners with curriculum, pedagogy and practice related to foundation learning.
- Two CSC programmes focused on high-quality teaching were launched in September 2022:
 - 'Leading Learning' – was completed with 39 delegates attended the programme.
 - 'Developing Teaching' was completed with 18 delegates completing the programme.
- Over 60 practitioners from more than 20 schools from across the region participated in 2 train the trainer training courses on 'Teach Like a Champion', focusing on high-quality teaching.
- A refined Central South Wales Challenge (CSWC) was implemented September 2022 with 71 LP appointed to support curriculum, learning and teaching across the region. This includes 2 enhanced LPs for pedagogy.
- 616 bespoke support requests have been received by the curriculum team since April 2022. Support is being deployed accordingly to meet the needs of individual and groups of schools to improve the quality of curriculum, including teaching.
- A number of the CSC C&PL team continue to work with regional partners, Welsh Government and other external partners on identified priorities related to pedagogy.
- The CSC Principal Improvement Partner for Pedagogy and Professional Learning continues to work with Welsh Government, HEIs, regional partners and schools on the National Strategy for Education Research and Enquiry and the National Pedagogy Project.
- 45 funded collaboration projects have been established across nearly all curriculum areas with 423 practitioners from the region participating.



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Grymuso ysgolion i wella deilliannau i bob dysgwr

Empowering schools to improve outcomes for all learners